## NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATIONS

A slightly modified Library of Congress (LC) transliteration system is used throughout this book. For the sake of readability, names ending in ii (Dostoevskii) or aia (Tolstaia) are rendered with y (Dostoevsky) and aya (Tolstaya) within the main body; in the bibliography and in clear references to the bibliography, such names retain the LC transliteration. The same applies to the use of a single i (Lidia) in some female names rather than iia (Lidiia). Three other notable exceptions are Olesha's first name, which has been transliterated as Yury in place of Iurii; Fyodor instead of Fedor (as in Nabokov's protagonist from  $The\ Gift$  and the poet Fyodor Tiutchev); and the absence of straight apostrophes as soft sign markers (Gogol as opposed to Gogol'). Names with recognizable English equivalents and surnames of well-known figures appear in their familiar English-language variants (Alexander and Tolstoy instead of Aleksandr and Tolstoi). Unless otherwise noted, all translations from Russian are my own.

## ALL FUTURE PLUNGES TO THE PAST